

Overview of the Head Start National Reporting System

Desired Outcomes

- Provide context for intensive training on child assessment, computer-based reporting system & local training design.
- Prepare you to explain the NRS to staff, parents, managers & community partners.

NRS Overview

- Purpose & Functions
- How It Works
- Assessment Components
- NRS Development & Field Test
- Your Role in NRS Implementation

Purpose & Functions

Designed to address the
President's *Good Start*,
Grow Smart Initiative and
1998 Congressional
mandates

Purpose & Functions

NRS will provide local programs and federal program offices with indicators of the progress that children are making on key early literacy & numeracy skills.

Purpose & Functions

- Supplement local child assessment and program self-assessment efforts
- Planning training and technical assistance
- Incorporate within future program monitoring reviews.

Purpose & Functions

- Will not replace local screening and ongoing assessment.
- Results will not be reported or used for planning for individual children.

How It Works

- All 4- and 5-year-old children will be given the same 1-on-1 assessment.
- Fall and spring assessments will be reported to show progress over course of Head Start year.

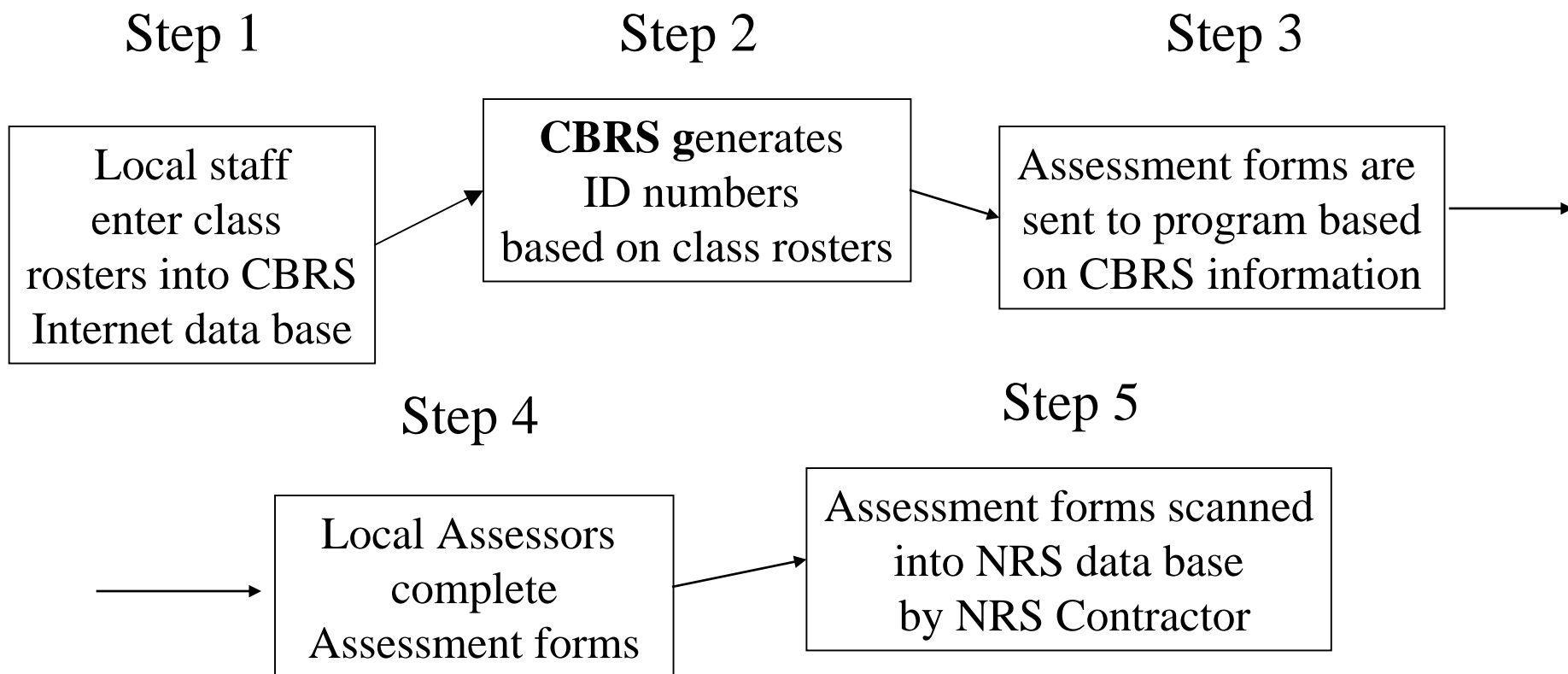
How It Works

- Child's responses recorded by assessor on scannable answer sheet.
- Internet-based Computer-Based Reporting System (CBRS) will support assessment management & use.

How It Works: (CBRS)

- Enter descriptive information.
- Develop rosters of children to be assessed
- Assign ID numbers to children and assessors
- Track completion of assessments

How It Works: (CBRS)



How It Works: (CBRS)

CBRS Descriptive Information:

- Full- vs. Part-day/Classroom- vs. Home-based program
- Children's Age, Language, Disability, Years of Head Start.
- Teacher education & experience

How It Works: (CBRS)

- Descriptive information enhances understanding & use of NRS assessments:
 - Progress for subgroups of children.
 - Progress in different forms of Head Start programs.

Assessment Components

- Skills that Congress and the President expect children to learn.
- Can be reliably measured in a relatively brief assessment.

Assessment Components

- Contribute to achievement in school
- Can be enhanced by activities in Head Start
- Skills that parents want their children to learn

Assessment Components

Assessment	Head Start Standard/Measure	Length/Items
Simon Says & Art Show	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Develops ability to understand/ use language•Uses increasingly complex vocabulary•For ELL, progresses in understanding and speaking English	4 mins./ 20 items
Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test	Understands increasingly complex vocabulary	5 mins./ 24 items
Letter Naming	Identifies at least 10 letters of the alphabet	3 mins./ 26 items
Early Math	Numbers and Operations	3 mins./ 17 items

Assessment Components:

Simon Says/Art Show

- Simon Says - child is asked to do what “Simon Says” (e.g., “Simon Says touch your ears”).
- Art Show - child is asked to name or tell function of series of pictured objects.

Assessment Components: Simon Says/Art Show

- Enjoyable tasks that help to establish rapport with child
- Used as an English-proficiency screener for determining language of assessment

Assessment Components: Vocabulary

- 24 picture-vocabulary items
 - Human body parts
 - Emotions and feelings
 - Activities of daily living
 - Work-related activities
 - Plants, animals, habitats

Assessment Components:

Letter Naming

- Children are shown all 26 letters (30 in Spanish version)
- Provides estimate of the number of letters Head Start children know at the end of Head Start

Assessment Components:

Early Math

- Number identification
- Shape recognition
- Relative size judgments
- Simple measurement
- Simple word problems

Assessment Components: Spanish Version

- Spanish versions of all subtests are administered to track progress of Spanish-speaking children, whether or not they are assessed in English.

Assessment Components: Spanish Version

- Spanish-speaking children who score at or above the cutoff on “Simon Says” and “Art Show” also receive English assessment in a separate session.

Assessment Components: Spanish Version

- Spanish-speaking children who score at or above cutoff on “Tio Simon” and “Exposicion de Arte” receive Spanish assessment

Development & Field Test

- *Good Start, Grow Smart* & Congressional mandates
- Focus groups & consultation
- Technical Work Group (TWG)
- Public comments on OMB Data Collection Packages

Development & Field Test

- TWG reviewed preschool assessment instruments, including tools currently used in local programs and in Head Start research studies.

Development & Field Test

- TWG reviewed each NRS assessment for internal consistency, inter-assessor reliability and predictive validity.

Development & Field Test

- NRS Field test examined feasibility & quality of:
 - English & Spanish child assessments, administered by teachers & other assessors
 - training procedures
 - CBRS

Development & Field Test

- 36 Head Start Programs (including 2 Migrant & Seasonal and 2 American Indian programs)
- 101 centers
- 156 classrooms
- 1,430 children

Development & Field Test

- Field test found measures were appropriate for 4- and 5- year old Head Start children and provided reliable data
- Average levels of performance were in the middle to upper range of scores on all subtests

Development & Field Test

- One task (*La Casita*) was improved based on field test feedback & TWG input
- One task (Elision) was removed for further development

Development & Field Test: Future Priorities

- Site visits to 40 programs to observe Year I implementation.
- Create clear, useful forms for reporting and using NRS information.
- Improve and expand child assessment, including versions in other languages.

By the end of this training, you will be...

- Certified as NRS Child Assessors
- Trained to Enter Data into the CBRIS
- Prepared to train & certify local staff on the NRS assessment & process
- Prepared to coordinate your local data collection efforts